

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, PPS

DATE: 14 February 1957

FROM : Chief, LAS

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report #7

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A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

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1. ^{OTR} The Language and Area School presently is surveying needs and methods for providing organized language training [REDACTED] EE Division's forward and unusual insistence on possession of essential language competence has developed such concern for effective training in the field following Headquarters training that the Division, with LAS, ^{OTR} contemplates development of a supervised language training program in [REDACTED] Undoubtedly, a program supervised by a professional linguist devoting his efforts exclusively to this will produce better training than is possible under present unsupervised practices. The survey is being done during three weeks by [REDACTED] Tentative thinking is to initiate a program in [REDACTED] in the summer or fall under supervision of one scientific linguist from LAS ^{OTR}

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 2. ^{OTR} The Language and Area School has taken initiative to systematize, albeit informally, relations with directors of other government language schools with a view to informal exchange of information on available services and problems and on activities meriting cooperative effort. An informal roundtable of language training directors of State, NSA, USIA, Air Force and CIA has initiated two activities: (a) creation of a clearing house of information (LAS providing the service) and (b) creation of an informal task force responsible for cooperative development of the foreign language proficiency testing program. (Navy and Army will participate in future.)

3. With delivery this week of a magnificent model of a German city prepared by [REDACTED] the School is introducing use of three-dimensional models in language training. This new model provides a very significant aid in language training. Other models will contribute a type of "live" factor of much value. (We are grateful to [REDACTED] and to all who have permitted him to produce this model. We hope he may be permitted to do others in future.)

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. At request of ORR, [REDACTED] met with a group of about twenty persons possessing some degree of interest in studying Chinese. When boiled down, the residue of genuine interest indicated possible justification for creating a part-time reading course for a maximum of seven people.

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2. [REDACTED] (DC/Admin/EE) have sought information on the nature of alternative opportunities for training in Polish, Hungarian and Czech.

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3. Several persons have sought guidance on intensive area and language training opportunities. In most cases, guidance was desired in connection with development of career plans.

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4. [REDACTED] of FE reported on a recent recruiting trip to San Francisco during which, as a courtesy, he also concerned himself with our need for Chinese language instructors.

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5. With a view to developing a reserve of language instructors, the School has prepared two invitations to appear in the next OTR Bulletin. One is directed to wives of Agency employees who may be able to assist in our current program. The other is directed at Agency employees who might contribute to the anticipated "out-of-hours" program.

6. Contract services of competent instructors in Korean and Serbo-Croatian have become available to us recently. So far, there is no evidence of justification for employing them. We are, however, discussing Korean with FE, [REDACTED] Chief, [REDACTED] and Deputy, [REDACTED]

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7. [REDACTED] visited the Director, School of Advanced International Studies, 8 February, and obtained his signature to a letter of agreement with CIA regarding arrangements for Agency participation in the SALS summer program on "Tensions in the Middle East."

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8. Preparations were completed to give the Spanish test, the first test prepared in the revised standard format. The Spanish test was given to eight people on 30 January. Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] of OSI served as expert speakers for the oral panel.

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9. [REDACTED] has prepared a translation-type test in Persian. This brings to 21 the number of languages for which tests of one kind or another are now on hand, most of them available for immediate use (a few have not been reproduced). The languages are: Albanian, Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Czech, Finnish, French, Greek, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Spanish, Swedish, and Yiddish.

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10. A meeting of most of the LAS language instructors was held on 29 January at which Mr. [REDACTED] gave a general presentation of the plan for composing tests. All instructors were asked to list the languages in which they feel competent to compose tests.

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11. Tests were given in Czech and Hungarian by special request on 30 January for one person. [REDACTED] served on the panel for both.

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12. [REDACTED] developed a consistent system for grading translation-type tests, which can be applied to tests in all languages.

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13. Mr. [REDACTED] of the Suggestions Evaluation Staff consulted [REDACTED] to get an opinion regarding a suggestion for a Russian type-writer keyboard.

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14. A test (reading only) was given in Persian by special request on 25 January for one person.

15. The regularly scheduled German test was given for three people, the written part on 6 February and the oral part on 8 February. Mrs. [REDACTED] served on the panel for the oral test.

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16. A test in spoken Spanish was given by special request for one person on 5 February. Mrs. [REDACTED] served on the panel.

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17. By special request one person was tested on 6 February in Russian and in spoken Japanese. Mrs. [REDACTED] served on the panel for Russian; Mrs. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] for Japanese.

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18. On 5 February, [REDACTED] conferred with Mr. [REDACTED] and Mrs. [REDACTED] of the A&E Staff to discuss the format of the revised German test.

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19. On 7 February, [REDACTED] conferred with Mr. [REDACTED] of ORR, a specialist on India, about his forthcoming lecture on the Languages of the Indian Sub-Continent.

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21. [REDACTED] Chief of Program Coordination Division, Medical Staff, has approached [REDACTED] on a proposal that expanded medical briefings, mandatory for both employees and adult dependents going to the field, be tied in with the Americans Abroad program. The proposal will be formally presented in the near future. It stems from considerable DDP pressure--present medical briefings, within and outside the OTR Americans Abroad program, are considered hopelessly inadequate--and from the expectation that pending legislation will be adopted for government payment of most medical bills incurred by overseas employees.

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23. The second annual running of the LAS Regional course on the Middle East commenced on 4 February with an enrollment of 16, including two observers from the Army Map Service and the Department of State. These observers are expected to make an evaluation, on the basis of their experience with this Middle East course, of the usefulness of the OTR Area Training Program to their agencies. Of the 16 students, 5 are from outside CIA: Army Map Service, 3; USAF and State, 1 each. DDP with 6, and OCR with 2 lead the Agency representation. ORR, OCI and OO each have 1 representative.

24. During the past week, the language laboratory was used for a total of 383 hours by 80 students.

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